

1-03 CLEARANCES (JUDY)
KENT, Sherman
STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE
CHRONO

14 July 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director-Comptroller

SUBJECT : Response to Sherman Kent's Memorandum of 13 July 1965
to Colonel White

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation in paragraph 5.

2. I have read Sherman Kent's memorandum to you of 13 July 1965 wherein he requests comment on the propriety or impropriety of his putting into print a preface to a reissue of his book, "Strategic Intelligence." I have also read the proposed preface which is marked "Preface to the Second Printing." A copy of the book in our files is a second printing. The preface to the original book is dated 1 October 1948. The "Note to Second Printing" is dated 1 September 1950. It may be that Mr. Kent is referring to a third edition.

3. The preface for the reprint is of an entirely different nature than that in the original Kent book. The original preface was instructional as to what strategic intelligence is, and informative as to how intelligence should be gathered, analyzed, etc., with an expression of gratitude also to different people who assisted Mr. Kent in the preparation of his publication. The proposed preface is more of an essay on the Cold War, pointing out the treachery of the Soviet Union and the success of the U.S. and its allies in the intelligence field in recognizing that threat and keeping their governments informed. Mr. Kent is very frank in his criticism of the Russian threat, the problems to intelligence created by the new emerging national states, and seems to defend the reissue of this 1948 book when he says on page 9:

"This merely means that there is a wider ground to cover, and that whereas much of the new ground is less familiar to us than, say, western Europe it is not so different that the old methodologies will not work. In this respect the intelligence business is much the same only much bigger."

Mr. Kent then on pages 11 on gets into the intelligence supplements in outer space, the use of sensors, computers, electronic data machines, etc., and on page 14 has this prophecy:

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"Not so long hence the studious intelligence type will sit at a fancily wired desk and dial himself into central magnetic and micro-photographic 'library' files. What he wants to read will appear on a sort of TV scope before his eyes."

Beginning on page 15 Mr. Kent quotes from General Orlov's "Handbook of Intelligence and Guerrilla Warfare" in which Orlov reportedly makes the claim that espionage, the technique of purloining other men's secret documents, leads one "surely to what one wants to know." Mr. Kent in great detail argues against this Soviet intelligence expert's premise. Some intelligence experts may not agree in the downgrading of espionage to the degree indicated by Mr. Kent.

4. I believe that CIA should not pass merely on the preface. I think the entire book must be reviewed. If not, there may be considerable press comment of what CIA is today and what Mr. Kent says it should be. It is very important, I believe, to make this recheck because Mr. Kent not only discusses his views of what the Agency should be structurally but also gives his views as to the qualifications of some of the top personnel. The present Director of CIA, it might be pointed out, would not meet Mr. Kent's standards as given on page 100 of his book where Mr. Kent states:

"In permitting an officer of the armed services to hold the post the Act gives CIA a military aura. This may turn out to be a positive disadvantage, for in making possible an accumulation of military men at the top level, it will discourage the recruitment of professionally competent civilians at what I have called the coordinating level. Let us not forget that the subject matter of CIA's particular brand of intelligence is much closer to so-called civilian specialties than to military."

5. Recommendations:
- 1) That Mr. Kent may wish to do some revision of his original work for the third edition;
 - 2) That the preface for the new edition be submitted to the State Department for comment and recommendation because of its political content regarding foreign governments.

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cc: DDCI

O/DCI [redacted] bak(14 July 65)

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